

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8624

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: BRITAIN'S NEW MAN AT THE UN

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT IVOR RICHARD WILL REPLACE SIR DONALD MAITLAND AS BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. RICHARD IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. HE IS A BARRISTER (QC SINCE 1971), AND SERVED AS LABOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR AN INNER LONDON CONSTITUENCY FROM 1964 TO 1974, WHEN HE LOST HIS SEAT THROUGH REDISTRICTING. HE STOOD AT THE GENERAL ELECTION (FEBRUARY 28) AS THE LABOR PARTY'S OFFICIAL CANDIDATE FOR A SEAT IN NORTHEAST ENGLAND AGAINST A MAVERICK INCUMBENT THE PARTY WANTED TO GET RID OF, BUT THE INCUMBENT WON.

3. DURING THE LAST WILSON GOVERNMENT (1966-70), RICHARD SERVED AS PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE DENIS HEALEY AND THEN AS PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY FOR THE ARMY. IN OPPOSITION (1970-74), HE WAS A FRONT BENCH SPOKESMAN ON PRESS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THEN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS VERY PRO-

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AMERICAN (RECEIVED AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT TO

THE US IN 1966), AND A STOUT DEFENDER OF NATO. HE IS ALSO A COMMITTED PRO-MARKETEER, AND IN OCTOBER 1971 DEFIED HIS OWN PARTY AND VOTED IN FAVOR OF BRITISH ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

4. RICHARD HAS LONG TAKEN AN INTEREST IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND LAST JUNE ATTENDED AN ARIEL FOUNDATION SEMINAR IN PENNSYLVANIA. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO GIVE STRONG VOICE AT THE UN TO LABOR'S POLICIES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH INCLUDE SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, REDUCTION OF BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC TIES TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND INTENSIFICATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

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